

School Funding Interim Commission – September 23, 2015

SAM was organized as an association of administrators in 1970. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Nearly 1000 members network under six affiliate associations (MASS, MAEMSP, MASSP, MCASE, MACSS, META) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!

SAM Strategic Plan Goal Areas

1. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership
2. Advocacy
3. Professional Learning and Services

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- Active participation by SAM members in research and implementation of 2015 legislative actions and other study groups impacting education – HB 374 Suicide Prevention Workgroup, Special Ed Coop Funding Coop Task Force, Montana Afterschool Alliance, CEEDAR State Leadership Team, Montana Arts Content Standards Committee, Montana Health Enhancement Content Standards Committee, Montana Oil and Gas Funding Study Committee, Montana Food 2 School Task Force, and others.
- Cooperating with partners in the development the Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS), EducationSuperHighway Broadband Access Initiative.

Advocacy

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM), formed the Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) creating a positive impact in the 2015 legislative session and strong voice on education policy issues.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System, Legislature, and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- [School Funding Interim Commission \(SFIC\)](#) – Communicate effectively with Commission members offering support for the work ahead.
- Working closely with the K-12 Vision Group and MT- PEC to establish areas of focus for the 2017 legislative session and education advocacy issues.

(over)

- **Focus on SAM and MT-PEC Priorities for SFIC Consideration:**
 - **Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (RISE 4 Montana)**
 - **Capital Facilities/Technology Infrastructure Needs**
 - **Special Education Funding Adequacy and Equity**
- SAM Executive Director, Kirk Miller, EdD and SAM offer assistance to the Commission. Dr. Miller served on the Governors K-12 School Funding Advisory Council (2001), the School Renewal Commission (2004) and the Quality Schools Interim Committee (2006) – this work over the long haul became the foundation for what is in law – MCA 20-9-309, the definition of a quality education for Montana. We understand the importance of the work the Commission will be doing based on their charge to review 20-9-309, determine the cost of meeting the law, and determine the state's share of meeting the law. Each of these matters are consistent with SAM's Delegate Assembly Positions and Resolutions and we are ready to assist the Commission in their work to adequately and equitably fund Montana's public schools.
- Federal advocacy for the reauthorization of ESEA, support of the BOLD flexibility in the IDEA act, leading the charge with Montana's congressional delegation and national associations to request Congress to address the burden created in completing the Civil Rights Data Collection biannual report.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies:
 - SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute and Mentor Programs are aligned to form the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program, expanding professional learning opportunities for Montana's administrators. 72 administrators served in 2014-15 and 43 beginning 2015-16.
 - SAM Administrators Institute, MCEL, and Affiliate Conferences.
 - SAM website - a one stop repository for member resources. Social media resources.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 13 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members.
- Technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions and use of social media to communicate effectively.
- Focus on SAM LPLP 2015-16 by training program Providers, marketing the program to members, launching the 2015-16 SAM LPLP, and seeking support for the program from the business community, university system, OPI and state administration.
- SAM Administrators Institute 2015 provided great learning opportunities for over 150 district and school leaders – theme was "Finding clarity amid the fog of external demands."

Thanks Montana School Funding Interim Commission for your work to provide, advocate and create education excellence for Montana students!